

1 CLAIMS

2
3 1. A method including the steps of:

- 4 (a) matching a first set of game designations with a set of bingo card representations
5 to produce a matched card set, the matched card set including a number of game
6 play records with each game play record corresponding to a different one of the
7 bingo card representations and including a result indicator indicating a result of
8 the match between the first set of game designations and the respective bingo card
9 representation;
- 10 (b) receiving a number of game play requests, each respective game play request
11 being associated with a respective player and a respective bingo card
12 representation from the set of bingo card representations; and
- 13 (c) for each game play request, assigning the respective player the game play record
14 corresponding to the respective bingo card representation with which the
15 respective player is associated.
- 16

17 2. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:

- 18 (a) assigning game play records from the matched card set until a game winning
19 player holds a game play record corresponding to a matched bingo card
20 representation having a game ending pattern; and

1 (b) withdrawing the matched card set from play in response to the assignment of the
2 game play record corresponding to the matched bingo card representation having
3 the game ending pattern.
4

5 3. The method of claim 1 further including the step of matching an additional game
6 designation set with the set of bingo card representations to produce an additional
7 matched card set, the additional matched card set including a number of respective
8 additional game play records with each additional game play record corresponding to a
9 different one of the bingo card representations and including a result indicator indicating
10 a result of the match between the additional game designation set and the respective
11 bingo card representation.
12

13 4. The method of claim 3 further including the steps of:

14 (a) receiving an additional game play request associated with a given player who has
15 already been assigned a respective game play record from the matched card set,
16 the additional game play request also being associated with a respective bingo
17 card representation from the set of bingo card representations; and
18 (b) assigning the given player the additional game play record corresponding to the
19 respective bingo card representation with which the given player is associated.
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- 1 5. The method of claim 3 further including the step of assigning additional game play
2 records from the additional matched card set in response to a game play request which
3 next follows a game play request for which is assigned a game ending game play record.
4
- 5 6. The method of claim 3 further including the step of assigning game play records from the
6 matched card set for a set period of time and then assigning additional game play records
7 from the additional matched card set after that set period of time.
8
- 9 7. The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
- 10 (a) matching a number of additional game designation sets with the set of bingo card
11 representations to produce a number of additional matched card sets, each
12 additional matched card set including a number of respective additional game play
13 records with each additional game play record in a given one of the additional
14 matched cards sets corresponding to a different one of the bingo card
15 representations and including a result indicator indicating a result of the match
16 between the respective additional game designation set and the respective bingo
17 card representation; and
- 18 (b) storing each additional matched card set so that respective additional game
19 records are available for assignment in response to a respective game play request.
20

1 8. A program product stored on a computer readable medium, the program product
2 including:

- 3 (a) matching program code for matching a first set of game designations with a set of
4 bingo card representations to produce a matched card set, the matched card set
5 including a number of game play records with each game play record
6 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a
7 result indicator indicating a result of the match between the first set of game
8 designations and the respective bingo card representation; and
9 (b) game play assignment program code for assigning game play records from the
10 matched card set, a respective game play record being assigned in response to a
11 respective game play request, each respective game play request being associated
12 with a respective player and a respective bingo card representation in the matched
13 card set, and the respective game play record assigned for a respective game play
14 request being assigned to the player associated with the bingo card representation
15 with which the game play request is associated.

16
17 9. The program product of claim 8 further including:

- 18 (a) game ending play monitoring program code for detecting when a player has been
19 assigned a game play record corresponding to a matched bingo card representation
20 having a game ending pattern; and

1 (b) matched card set switching program code for switching to a different matched
2 card set when the winning play monitoring program code detects that a player has
3 been assigned the game play record corresponding to the matched bingo card
4 representation having the game ending pattern.
5

6 10. The program product of Claim 8 wherein the matching program code matches an
7 additional game designation set with the set of bingo card representations to produce an
8 additional matched card set, the additional matched card set including a number of
9 respective additional game play records with each additional game play record
10 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a result
11 indicator indicating a result of the match between the additional game designation set and
12 the respective bingo card representation.
13

14 11. The program product of Claim 10 wherein the game play assignment program code
15 responds to a game play request from a given player who as been assigned a game play
16 record from the matched card set by assigning the given player an additional game play
17 record from the additional matched card set, the assigned additional game play record
18 corresponding to the respective bingo card representation with which the given player is
19 associated.
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12. The program product of claim 11 wherein the game play assignment program code assigns a respective additional game play record from the additional matched card set in response to a game play request which next follows a game play request for which is assigned a game ending play record from the matched card set.
13. The program product of claim 10 wherein the game play assignment program code assigns game play records from the matched card set for a set period of time and then assigns additional game play records from the additional matched card set after that set period of time.
14. A gaming system comprising:
- (a) a number of player stations, each player station for enabling a player to initiate a game play request and for displaying results of a game play upon receipt of a game play record, each game play request initiated by a player being associated with the initiating player and with a respective bingo card representation in a set of bingo card representations;
 - (b) a central processing system for storing a set of game play records, each game play record corresponding to a respective bingo card representation which has been matched to a first set of game designations, the central processing system also for assigning a respective game play record from the set of game play records to a player in response to a game play request initiated by the respective player at one

1 of the player stations, the respective game play record assigned to the player being
2 the game play record corresponding to the bingo card representation that is
3 associated with that player; and

- 4 (c) a communications system operatively connected to the central processing system
5 and to each of the player stations for facilitating communications between the
6 central processing system and each player station.

7
8 15. The gaming system of claim 14 wherein:

- 9 (a) the central processing system stores a number of additional sets of game play
10 records, each game play record in a respective additional set of game play records
11 corresponding to a respective one of the bingo card representations which has
12 been matched to an additional set of game designations; and
13 (b) the central processing system also assigns a respective game play record from one
14 of the additional sets of game play records to a player in response to a game play
15 request initiated by the respective player at a respective one of the player stations,
16 the respective game play record assigned to the player from the additional set of
17 game play records being the game play record in that additional set corresponding
18 to the bingo card representation that is associated with that player.

19
20 16. The gaming system of claim 16 wherein the matched card set includes a game ending
21 game play record corresponding to a bingo card representation from the set of bingo card

1 representations and wherein the central processing system withdraws the matched card set
2 from play in response to the assignment of the game ending game play record.
3

4 17. The gaming system of claim 14 further including a gaming floor component for directing
5 a bingo card request to the central processing system in response to a bingo card request
6 input entered for a respective player, and wherein the central processing system responds
7 to the bingo card request by associating a respective bingo card representation from the
8 bingo card representation set with the respective player for whom the bingo card request
9 input was entered.
10

11 18. The gaming system of claim 17 wherein the gaming floor component comprises one of
12 the player stations.
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14 19. The gaming system of claim 17 further including a point of sale terminal distinct from the
15 player stations and wherein the gaming floor component comprises the point of sale
16 terminal.
17

18 20. The gaming system of claim 14 wherein the central processing system is also for
19 maintaining a database correlating each of a number of respective players to one or more
20 bingo card representations with which the respective player is associated.